CLAIMS

1. A method for registration of a DRNC to be capable of handling user equipment units (UE) supporting multimedia broadcast multicast service (MBMS), said method performed in a radio network control node acting across an Iur interface as a drift radio network control node (26_2) for one or more user equipment units registering for a MBMS session, characterized by

defining a counter and a first threshold value;

using the counter for counting of a set of power consuming events occurring at the drift radio network control node (26_2);

determining the total power consumption caused by said events;

delaying registration of the drift radio network control node (26_2) with a core network node (30) until the counter has exceeded the first threshold value.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the number of events occurring at the drift network control node (26_2) which is counted by the counter is a number of user equipment units for which a Iur linking procedure is performed for the MBMS session.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the number of events occurring at the drift network control node (26_2) which is counted by the counter are time periods elapsed since an Iur linking procedure for the MBMS session has been performed for a predetermined user equipment unit.

4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

defining a second threshold value;

delaying deregistration of the drift network control node (26_2) until the counter has a value below the second threshold value.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the second value is selected to provide hysteresis protection.

6. A radio network control node acting across an Iur interface as a drift radio network control node (26_2) for a user equipment unit (UE) in a communications system supporting a multimedia broadcast multicast service (MBMS), c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n

a first counter for counting a set of power consuming events occurring at the drift radio network control node (26_2);

means for determining the total power consumption caused by said events;

means for delaying registration of the drift radio network control node (26_2) with a core network node (30) until the counter has exceeded a first threshold value.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the number of events occurring at the drift network control node (26_2) which is counted by the counter is a number of user equipment units for which a Iur linking procedure is performed for the MBMS session.

8. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the number of events occurring at the drift network control node (26_2) which is counted by the counter are time periods elapsed since an Iur linking procedure for the MBMS session has been performed for a predetermined user equipment unit.

9. The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising means for delaying deregistration of the drift network control node (26_2) until the counter has a value below a second threshold value.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the second threshold value is selected to provide hysteresis protection.